

**What Is Claimed is:**

1. A hand-portable spreader for blowing particles with an air stream; the spreader comprising:
  - a grip;
  - a storage chamber holding the particles to be spread;
  - an air blower for generating the air stream;
  - an air conduit for conducting the air stream;
  - an orifice between the storage chamber and the conduit, through which the particles pass into the air stream;
  - a nozzle downstream of the orifice, from which the air stream shoots;
  - wherein a velocity of the air stream in the conduit is sufficient to carry the particles from the orifice to the nozzle and be shot therefrom with the air stream.
2. The spreader according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the air stream flows through the storage chamber.
3. The spreader according to claim 2, wherein the orifice couples the storage chamber to the conduit and the portion of the air stream flows through the storage chamber and thence the orifice.
4. The spreader according to claim 3, wherein the orifice is generally annular and extends at least partially around the conduit.
5. The spreader according to claim 4, further comprising a base disposed below the grip, whereon the spreader is stably supported, and wherein the conduit is disposed generally vertical in a region of the orifice when the spreader is supported on the base.

6. The spreader according to claim 5, wherein an outside of the storage chamber comprises the base.
7. The spreader according to claim 4, wherein conduit and the storage chamber are separable as a unit.
8. The spreader according to claim 1, comprising a base disposed below the grip, whereon the spreader is stably supported.
9. The spreader according to claim 1, wherein the blower comprises a vane impeller.
10. The spreader according to claim 1, comprising a shoulder strap.